

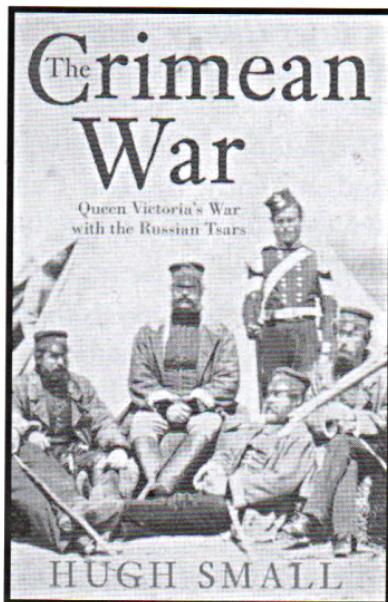
12 THE CRIMEAN WAR - QUEEN VICTORIA'S WAR WITH THE RUSSIAN TSARS

(Reviewed by Lawrence W. Crider)

'The Crimean War: Queen Victoria's War with the Russian Tsars' by Hugh Small.

Published by Tempus Publishing Ltd (www.tempus-publishing.com) ISBN 978-0-7524-4388-1.

Price: 24.95 Euros, 17.99 Pounds, 37.50 Dollars.



Succinctly stated, I believe this book to be one of the most original and thought-provoking books on the Crimean War to date. Hugh Small has challenged the paradigms of the past by looking at events from a whole new perspective, and in the process he has shaken the foundations of "accepted knowledge" on the war. Unlike many histories which merely repeat facts taken from secondary accounts of dubious accuracy, Hugh has gone to a number of original source documents for facts which debunk a number of established myths while simultaneously offering his own explanations for a number of events in the war - some of which leave you shaking your head asking "Now why didn't that occur to me?" Particularly intriguing are his tactical alternatives and analyses of the repercussions of various command decisions.

Additional from Douglas Austin: I have read all Hugh's book and I can (and do) whole-heartedly recommend it for serious Crimean War students. As with his earlier "*Florence Nightingale: The Avenging Angel*", his new book provides a series of broader and deeper insights on his topic, which creates simultaneously a valuable reinterpretation of received wisdom and an implicit admonition to readers to search deeper into the many little-known and/or unpublished archives. Hugh's chapter on 'The Allied Change of Plan' is a specific case in point.

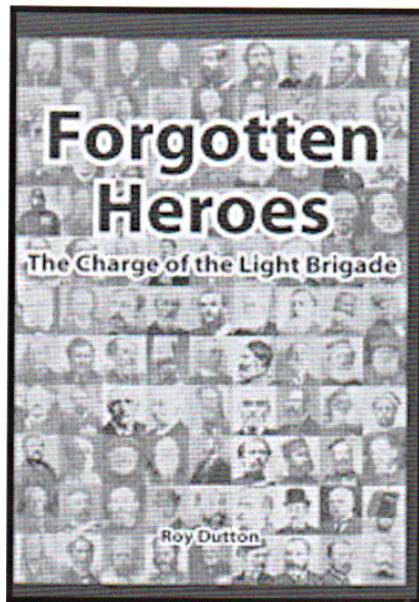
FORGOTTEN HEROES: THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

(Reviewed by Dr. Douglas J. Austin) 12 [TWC 25(4) p27 2008]

'Forgotten Heroes: The Charge of the Light Brigade' by Roy Dutton.

(www.infodial.co.uk) ISBN 0 9556 5540 1.

Price £ 25.99 at Amazon.co.uk.



The Light Brigade's ill-directed but glorious attack remains endlessly fascinating to many, particularly because 'new' data and interpretations are still appearing, even after 153 years. It has generated several labours of love by authors concerned to identify authentic 'Chargers' and to tell something of their stories. One can at once cite W. M. Lummis and K. G. Wynn ('*Honour the Light Brigade*', 1973), A. Sewell ('*The Cavalry Division in the Crimea*', unpublished), L. W. Crider ('*In Search of the Light Brigade*', 2004) and T. Brighton ('*Hell Riders*', 2004), besides many other contributors. To those fine works, we must now add Roy Dutton's '*Forgotten Heroes - The Charge of the Light Brigade*', InfoDial, Oxon, 2007. In 417 pages, it presents the fruits of many years of research, including details of 47 more men, bringing the total of 'Known Chargers' to 562, with 29 more 'Possible Chargers'. They are listed by regiment and then alphabetically by name, irrespective of rank. The book combines the fullest available biographical details on every man (many with sad destinies) with a truly outstanding series of photographs and documents (many published for the first time) and a number of survivor's accounts of the Charge. The photographs are very well reproduced in this edition and will be even better in the limited Collector's Edition. Medalists will be delighted with the detailed information on named items, museum and collection holdings and auction results. Genealogists and local historians may well be prompted to investigate their own heroes. No less than 27 Appendices provide a wealth of detail of the Lists and Meetings of the Balaklava Survivors from 1875 to 1913 and conclude with an alphabetical Name and Page Listing, a short Bibliography and Supplementary Information. This excellent book is an essential resource for everyone with an interest in the lives of the 'Chargers', as well as their deeds on 25th October, 1854.

Additional from the Editor: Even if you have Lummis and Wynn and my book, you will want this book in your library if you are interested in the Light Brigade. While much of the information is already available in the aforementioned books, the numerous rare photos and excellent appendices alone make the book a veritable treasure. For the Medal Collectors: as a traditionalist, I don't fully agree with his criteria for vetting Chargers, but feel that careful examination of the new and rich material he has provided will reveal more 'real Chargers' than the 6 which were unearthed with the publication of Michael Trow's book.